

### **SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS**

On page 1, insert above line 1, insert--Priority Claim

The present application claims priority on European Patent Application 03252656.8 filed April 25, 2003.--

On page 1, above line 1, insert--Field of the Invention--

Paragraph on line 1 of page 1 has been amended as follows:

-- The present invention relates to an expander system for radially expanding a tubular element from a first inner diameter to a second inner diameter larger than the first inner diameter. Expansion of tubular elements finds increasing use in the industry of hydrocarbon fluid production from an earth formation, whereby boreholes are drilled to provide a conduit for hydrocarbon fluid flowing from a reservoir zone to a production facility to surface. Conventionally such borehole is provided with several tubular casing sections during drilling of the borehole. Since each subsequent casing section must pass through a previously installed casing section, the different casing section are of decreasing diameter in downward direction which leads to the well-known nested arrangement of casing sections. Thus the available diameter for the production of hydrocarbon fluid decreases with depth. This can lead to technical and / or economical drawbacks, especially for deep wells where a relatively large number of separate casing sections is to be installed.

On page 1, above line 21, insert--Background of the Invention

Expansion of tubular elements finds increasing use in the industry of hydrocarbon fluid production from an earth formation, whereby boreholes are drilled to provide a conduit for hydrocarbon fluid flowing from a reservoir zone to a production facility to surface. Conventionally such borehole is provided with several tubular casing sections during drilling of the borehole. Since each subsequent casing section must pass through a previously installed casing section, the different casing section are of decreasing diameter in downward direction which leads to the well-known nested arrangement of casing sections. Thus the available diameter for the production of hydrocarbon fluid decreases with depth. This can lead to technical and / or economical drawbacks, especially for deep wells where a relatively large number of separate casing sections is to be installed.--

Paragraph on line 8 on page 2 was amended as follows:

EP-0643794-A discloses a system for expanding a tubular element using a tool movable between a radially retracted mode and a radially expanded mode. The tubular element is expanded in cycles whereby in each cycle the tool is positioned in a portion of the tubular element whereby the tool is in the retracted mode, and subsequently the tool is expanded thereby expanding said tubular element portion in a single step. Next the tool is to be repositioned accurately in the tubular element before the expansion cycle can be repeated. ~~Experience has shown that expanding such portion of the tubular element in a single step is difficult as it requires a large degree of expansion of the expander.~~

On page 2, delete line 21-23

On page 2, above line 24, insert--Summary of the Invention--

Paragraph on line 24 of page 2 has been amended as follows:

~~--In accordance with the invention there is provided~~ The present inventions include an expander system for radially expanding a tubular element having an unexpanded portion of a first inner diameter, the expander system including an expander movable between a radially retracted mode and a radially expanded mode, wherein the expander includes an expansion surface extending in axial direction of the expander, the expansion surface being operable to expand the tubular element from said first inner diameter to a second inner diameter larger than the first inner diameter by movement of the expander from the retracted mode to the expanded mode thereof, said expansion surface being of increasing diameter in axial direction of the expander. --

On page 3, delete lines 4-33.

On page 4, delete lines 1-11.

On page 4, above line 12, insert--Brief Description of the Drawings--

On page 5, above line 8, insert--Detailed Description of the Invention--

On page 5, above line 10, insert the following paragraphs:

The term "unexpanded portion" of the tubular element is intended to refer to a portion of the tubular element which is to be expanded to a larger diameter. Thus it is to be understood that such "unexpanded portion" can be a portion which has not yet been subjected to expansion before or to a portion which has already been subjected to expansion.

In use the expander is arranged in the tubular element and moved from the retracted mode to the expanded mode whereby a section of the tubular element is expanded an incremental amount by a first portion of the expansion surface. Next the expander is moved to the retracted mode and repositioned in the tubular element until a second portion of the expansion surface is arranged opposite said expanded section of the tubular element, which second portion is of larger diameter than the first portion. Subsequently the expander is moved again to the expanded mode whereby the second portion of the expansion surface expands said section of the tubular element a further incremental amount. In this manner the tubular element is expanded from the first diameter to the second diameter in a plurality of incremental steps, while in each such step the expander only has to expand a fraction of the difference between the first and second diameters.

To reposition the expander in a simple way after each expansion step, suitably the expander comprises a contact surface for contacting the inner surface of the tubular element, said contact surface being of a diameter larger than said first inner diameter when the expander is in the radially retracted mode thereof.

Preferably said contact surface has a smallest diameter smaller than said first inner diameter, and a largest diameter larger than said first inner diameter.

The contact surface suitably forms at least part of the expansion surface.

To achieve uniform expansion of the tubular element, said expansion surface suitably is arranged to move radially outward in substantially uniform manner along the length of the expansion surface upon movement of the expansion surface from the retracted position to the expanded position thereof.--

On page 15, delete lines 15-33.

On page 16, above line 1, insert --We claim:--